

Service Date: October 12, 1988

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER of the Application)	UTILITY DIVISION
of CONSUMERS GAS COMPANY for)	DOCKET NO. 88.9.31
Authority to Decrease Rates and)	INTERIM ORDER NO. 5363
Charges for Natural Gas Service)	
_____)	

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On September 26, 1988, Consumers Gas Company (Applicant, CGC, Company) filed an application seeking authority to decrease rates for natural gas service. The application sought authority to decrease rates in order to reflect lower purchased gas costs from Treasure State Pipeline Company. The amount of the decrease from Treasure State Pipeline Company is 88 cents per Mcf. Currently, CGC has a two tier price structure: \$10.34 for the first Mcf or less, and \$9.32 for all additional Mcf. With this filing CGC requests that the rate differential be eliminated. This results in the following proposed rates: \$8.54 for the first Mcf or less, and \$8.54 for all additional Mcf.

2. The Commission finds that the elimination of the two tier price structure is approved on an interim basis. This approval is

interim in nature and may be modified in the final order in this Docket.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Applicant is a "public utility" within the meaning of Section 69-3-101, MCA.

2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.

3. Section 69-3-304, MCA, provides in part, "The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases or decreases pending a hearing or final decision."

4. The rate levels and spread approved herein are reasonable.

ORDER

1. Applicant is hereby granted the requested decrease on an interim basis, reflecting the Findings of Fact in this Order.

2. Such decrease is to become effective for services rendered on and after October 3, 1988, and remain in effect until such time as a final decision is reached in this matter.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 3rd day of October, 1988, by a 5 - 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CLYDE JARVIS, Chairman

HOWARD L. ELLIS, Commissioner

TOM MONAHAN, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

JOHN B. DRISCOLL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Carol A. Frasier
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request that the Commission reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.